GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4026
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2001
ANTYODAYA ANNA YOJNA
DALPAT SINGH PARASTE

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Antyodaya Anna Yojna, seems to have overlooked one crucial fact that a major chunk of the `Poorest of the poor` for whom the scheme is meant work on daily wages and not on monthly salaries;

(b) whether the Government are also aware that, they buy food on day to day basis, while under the scheme, foodgrain in bulk would be sold to them on a monthly basis;

(c) if so, whether the scheme does not include distribution of kerosene oil, levy sugar, edible oil and soft coke, which are widely used by the lower income groups; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Union Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHAUHAN)

(a) & (b) : The requirement of the poor families the majority of whom are wage earner on daily or weekly basis have not been overlooked under the Targeted Public Distribution System (PDS). As many of them cannot afford to purchase the monthly allocations in one instalment, the State Governments/ UT Administrations have been requested to allow them to purchase their monthly quota of foodgrains from the fair price shops in more than one instalment. This facility would cover the one crore poorest of the poor families under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) constituting 15.33% of BPL families under TPDS in the country who are being allocated 25 kg. foodgrains per family per month at highly subsidised rates of Rs. 3 a kg. for rice and Rs. 2 a kg. for wheat.

(c) & (d) : It is estimated that 5% of our population are unable to get two square meals a day on a sustained basis throughout the year. Their purchasing power is so low that they are not in a position to buy foodgrains round the year even at BPL rates. They can be called as hungry. Antyodaya Anna Yojana has been launched to ensure food security for these `hungry` people in the country and distribution of kerosene oil, levy sugar, edible oil and soft coke has not been included.